



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Rep. Mike Bost [IL-12]
Thursday, April 15, 2021

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Leonard Crofford, who turns 100 years old today. Born on April 15th, 1921 and raised in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Leonard met the love of his life, Rosaline (Rosie), when he was 15, and they got married shortly before he joined the Navy two years later. He first served in the U.S. Navy at Wheeler Army Airfield near Pearl Harbor in 1939. Leonard was just 15 miles away when Japan launched its December 7, 1941 attack on the base, throwing him from his bunk due to the aftershock from a bomb blast. Two years later, he joined the U.S. Army, spending most of his service overseas as a mechanic and teaching other soldiers how to repair tanks. In 1945, he was honorably discharged as a Master Sergeant. On October 6, 1945, Leonard married Rosie in Hammond, Indiana; and together they raised five children: Ronnie, Leonard, Diane, Connie, and Sharon. Forty years ago, Leonard and Rosie moved to Thompsonville, Illinois, spending the remainder of their remarkable 75-year marriage together, until Rosie passed away at the age of 97 on February 22, 2020. Leonard has carried on the traditions they shared, like attending Parish Church and gardening. Every year he tends to a strawberry garden that he shares with family and friends. He is very much loved by his children and grandchildren and supported by the congregation of his church.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Leonard Crofford of Thompsonville on his milestone 100th birthday. Thank you for your service and happy birthday!

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